Message Text

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P R 110434Z MAY 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BC, US

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA - FY 77 SSA PROGRAM

REF: A) STATE 91547; B) GABORONE 963; C) GABORONE 908

ABIDJAN FOR AMBASSADOR NORLAND JOINT STATE/AID MESSAGE

1. REF A REPRESENTED JOINT STATE/AID EFFORT TO REPROGRAM SSA FY 77 FUNDS FOR BOTSWANA IN MOST EXPEDITIOUS MANNER. PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER AID FUNDS THROUGH STATE/IO TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROPRIATE UN AGENCY FOR USE IN BOTSWANA WAS SUGGESTED TO AVOID SOMETIME CUMBERSOME PROCEDURES REQUIRED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STRICTLY BILATERAL PROGRAM. DEPT IS AWARE THAT MULTI-LATERAL CHANNEL NOT ALWAYS OPTIMUM SOLUTION, BUT NEVERTHELESS THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. WE ARE CONTINUING TO EXPLORE OTHER ALTERNATIVES FOR EXPEDITIOUS REPROGRAMMING OF FY

77 FUNDS FOR BOTSWANA.

2. DEPT IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT WE ONLY COMMIT OURSELVES TO THOSE BILATERAL PROGRAMS THAT WE HAVE THE MANPOWER TO IMPLEMENT. THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO

BOTSWANA COUNCIL OF REFUGEES AND OTHER PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS PVOS WAS SUGGESTED TO DIRECT FUNDS TO ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN ACTUALLY IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS. IF GOB IS BETTER STRUCTURED TO ADDRESS REFUGEE PROBLEM THAN VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS WE CAN REDIRECT THE FUNDS. WE AWAIT GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, PROMISED IN REF C, AS A GUIDE FOR REPROGRAMMING BALANCE OF FY 77 SSA FUNDS IN BOTSWANA.

3. WE ARE PUZZLED AND SOMEWHAT CONCERNED BY EMBASSY REPORT THAT 36,000 DOLLARS EARMARKED FOR ZIMBABWEANS IN FRANCISTOWN MAY NOT YET HAVE BEEN RELEASED. WE HAVE FOLLOWED UP WITH UNHCR/GENEVA ON THIS POINT AND ARE ASSURED THAT THE FUNDS HAVE BEEN OBLIGATED AT LEAST AT THAT LEVEL. (PLEASE INCLUDE US MISSION GENEVA AS ADDRESSEE ON FUTURE MESSAGES). WE ARE CONVINCED THAT UNHCR/GENEVA WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO USG CONCERNS AND THAT A PROGRAM INVOLVING TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO GOB VIA UNHCR AS OUTLINED IN REFTEL A CAN BE EXPEDITIOUSLY ACCOMPLISHED. WE WILL, HOWEVER, LOOK TO EMBASSY TO MONITOR UNHCR/BOTSWANA PERFORMANCE IN THIS RESPECT SO THAT APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION CAN BE TAKEN WITH UNHCR/GENEVA IF NECESSARY. CHRISTOPHER

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